

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

HFA

7 October 1988

OCA 88-3345

The Honorable Stephen J. Solarz  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Solarz:

The following paragraphs contain the information you requested during the briefing on Soviet SLCMs on 26 September. It should be kept in mind that the information, while probably not subject to major changes, has not been fully coordinated within the Intelligence Community. It was felt that providing this as yet uncoordinated data would be better than providing last year's data that may no longer be correct. The enclosed 1987 and 1988 versions of Soviet Military Power have some useful unclassified statements and illustrations of Soviet SLCMs.

[REDACTED]

The Soviets are developing two distinct classes of long-range land attack SLCMs. The first is the SS-N-21 that is a small, subsonic cruise missile (similar to the US Tomahawk) that flies a low-altitude flight profile. We estimate its maximum range to be about 3,000 to 3,500 km but its typical operational range would be about 2,500 km. The difference would reflect likely considerations for threat avoidance, flying suitable courses for position updates, and the need to maintain a fuel reserve to assure the intended target is reached. It probably could achieve accuracies on the order of 100-200 meters. We judge this missile became operational in early 1987. About 40 missiles are probably deployed on a single submarine. There is no way to judge how many submarines will carry this missile or the number of missiles on each platform. By the mid-1990s, we project that 400 SS-N-21 SCLMs could be deployed on 20-40 submarines.

[REDACTED]

The second type of SLCM is the SS-NIX-24 that uses a much larger airframe and is capable of supersonic flight, in excess of Mach 3. It reaches altitudes of 20,000 to 25,000 meters. It has a range of at least 3,000 km and its maximum range is uncertain. We do not know its accuracy. We do not expect this missile to be deployed until 1989. By the mid-1990s, we project that the Soviet could deploy about 96 SS-N-24 missiles on eight different submarines.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-SECRET-

I trust the foregoing will be helpful but should you need additional information, we will be happy to provide it. The briefing and the additional information in the paragraphs above is classified. If you intend to use any of this information for unclassified purposes we would appreciate the opportunity to review an advance copy of any proposed statement on SLCMs to check for classified data. We can promise you a quick turn around on this clearance process.

Sincerely,

Deputy Director, House Affairs  
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosures

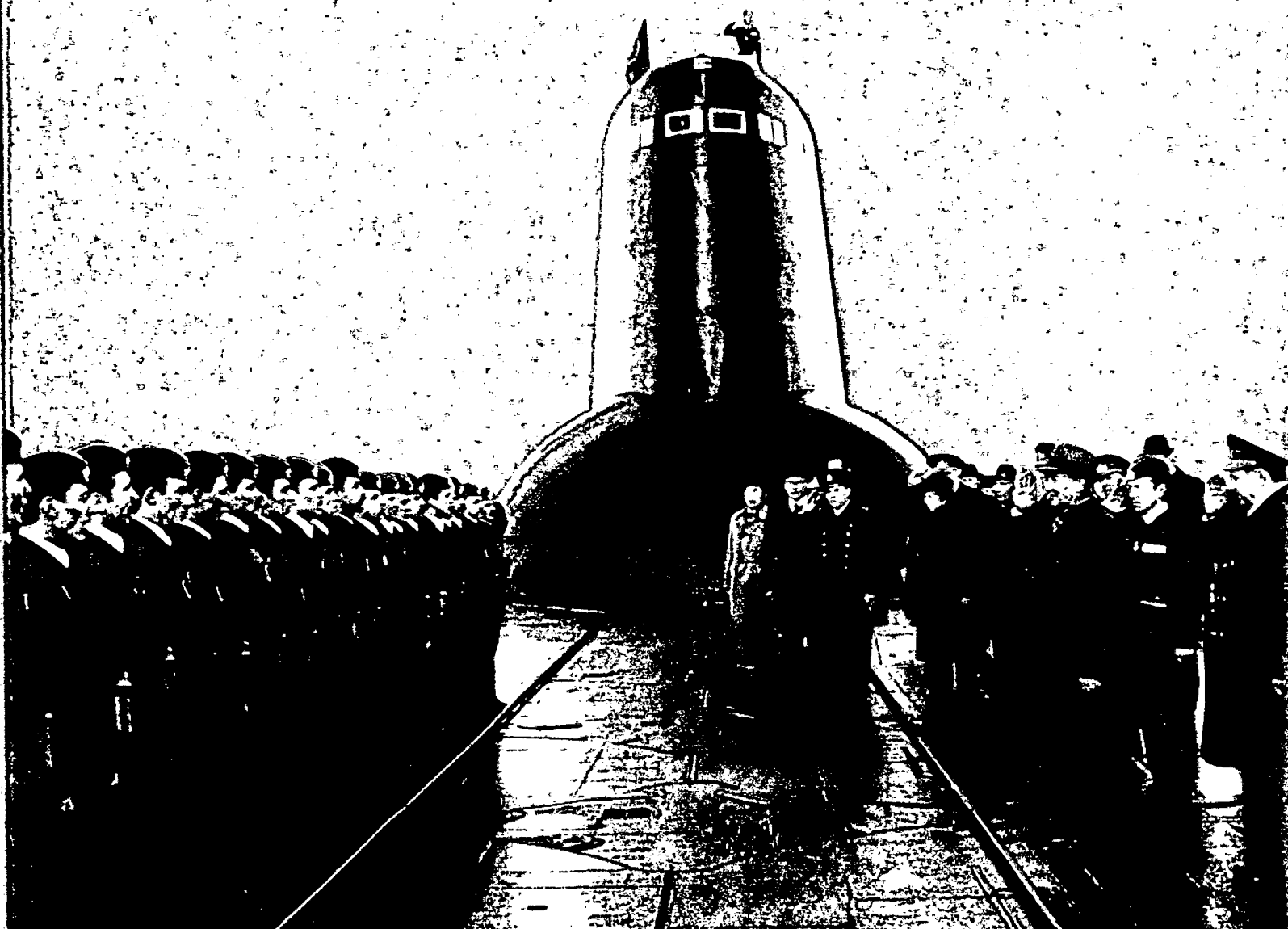
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